



## Newsletter – May 2026

Dear Members,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the AGM recently. It seems to make it all so worthwhile, seeing so many happy faces. Thank you also for renewing your subscriptions so promptly. We do hope that you have enjoyed looking through the new schedule and choosing the classes that you would like to enter. The Summer show will soon be upon us before we know it. Please note that we now have Art classes in every show.

We have a great deal happening for you to enjoy in the coming months. Our first event is on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm in the Village Hall**. Free for Members £5.00 for non-members. “Preparing for the Annual Show” A talk given by Barry Newman, who some of you will already have seen on the television and not realised it. He will also be at Chelsea in a few weeks’ time and is also a judge on Britain in Bloom. He is the President of the Vegetable Growers Association. He specialises in Fruit, vegetables and cut flowers. His presentation should be most enlightening. He has been head judge for the RHS on numerous occasions. It goes without saying that Tea and Cake will be available.

**Outing - Borde Hill Gardens Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June.** The Coach will leave Maple Parage Bus Stop at 10.00am. There is still time to register your interest. The cost for members is £20.00 and non-members £25.00. We ask you to do so by the 9<sup>th</sup> May and to pay for the trip too. Cash & Cheques to Brenda, at 1 Forge Cottages, Blacksmiths Corner, or by bank transfer direct to the bank. Our details are Sort code 30-91-97 Account No. 00294364. You are welcome to bring as many friends as you like.

Closely following behind the trip is our **Walberton Open Garden Sunday, on 21<sup>st</sup> June.** If you would like to have your garden open, there is still time to register. Please contact Brenda Bailey. If you can offer any help in anyway whatsoever, please do let one of the Committee know. Also, if you have any bright ideas how we can tidy up the village and make it look smart for the occasion please get your suggestions in. We are open to any ideas at all.

Then of course we have our big **Summer Show, Dog Show and Village Fete on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July.** Plans are well underway, but we are always open to your suggestions. We would like to have a few more stalls this year, so if you or anyone you know would like to have a stall, please contact Brenda. We are particularly short of activities for children. We will also be asking for your help nearer the time.

### **New Local Nursery**

I know that a some of our members have already visited **Strathmore Plants** in Eastergate Lane and are raving about it. This nursery used to belong to Jan de Vries, who is now one of our Judges for our Flower Shows since he retired from growing. It is now run by Andrew & Amanda. At this time of the year, they are specialising in Bedding Plants and Vegetable Plants. The quality and standard of the home-grown produce is excellent. The compost that they sell is the same as the compost that they use for growing the plants in and at £5.25 per bag it is worth it. Andrew also loves growing his Roses and will always have a ready supply. All his plants are worth every penny. Amanda is busy creating the most beautiful hanging baskets as well. Please pay them a visit you won't be disappointed.

### **Just a few of the jobs in the Garden in May.**

Plant out your Sweet Peas. They will need supporting as they grow very quickly.

Stake up the Delphiniums and other tall plants.

Plant up your window boxes and hanging baskets.

Sow Beetroot seed and other salad crops.

Plant out Courgettes.

Earth-up your potatoes, as these will probably need it by now.

Water your garden often as the soil is very dry at the moment.

### **Out & About in May.**

Leonardslee Gardens & Exbury are in full flower this month. But closer to home is Denmans Gardens, which is also worth a visit.

Please don't forget to use your vouchers that are in your new schedules.

Thank you from your Committee,

Liz Hewson (Chair), Brenda Bailey (Shows & Events), Douglas Callander, Alan Gess, Bob Rogers, Kate Dobson & Liesma Mezulis.

Details for Brenda Bailey Email [WalbertongcShows@outlook.com](mailto:WalbertongcShows@outlook.com) or 07881552980